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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,890	07/16/2003	Dean C. Marchand	COS99006C1	1495
25537	7590	09/21/2004	EXAMINER	
MCI, INC TECHNOLOGY LAW DEPARTMENT 1133 19TH STREET NW, 10TH FLOOR WASHINGTON, DC 20036			BARNIE, REXFORD N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2643	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/621,890	MARCHAND ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	REXFORD N BARNIE	2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

*R. N. Barnie*  
REXFORD BARNIE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reed et al. (US Pat# 5,566,234).

Regarding claim 1, Reed teaches a method for suppressing a fraud control block in a telecommunications system, the telecommunications system having customer accounts for billing customers for usage of the system, the telecommunications system further having a fraud control system for creating fraud control blocks, comprising the steps of

- a) maintaining at least one record, each record associated with one of the customer accounts (see columns 7-13);
- b) adding an override flag field to each of the at least one record (see columns 7-13);
- c) determining if an override flag is set in a record, when the record is accessed during call processing of a call using a customer account associated with the record (columns 7-13); and

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d) overriding one or more fraud control blocks on the call if it is determined in step 8 that the override flag is set (see columns 7-13). *Furthermore, a closer look at (col. 12 lines 19-column 13 line 10) teaches that even though a call block can be overridden, a call can still be blocked based on call origination information which could include according to (see col. 5 lines 34-38, col. 10 lines 12-16) by giving one the flexibility to determine when a call should be blocked based on calling patterns, statistics and so forth.*

Regarding claim 2, Reed teaches at least one record of step (a) is maintained in a Billed Number Screening (BNS) database (see fig. 1).

Regarding claims 3-4 and 6; Reed teaches a special service call, which is an international call (fig. 3B @326, 329, 330).

Regarding claim 5, Reed teaches a device for suppressing a fraud control block in a telecommunications system, the telecommunications system having customer accounts for billing customers for usage of the system and having a fraud control system for creating fraud control blocks (see figs., columns 7-13), comprising:

- a database for maintaining at least one record, each record associated with one of the customer accounts, each record having an override flag field;
- means for determining if an override flag is set in a record, when the record is accessed during call processing of a call using a customer account associated with said record; and

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means for overriding one or more fraud control blocks on the call if the determining means determines that the override flag is set.

Regarding claim 7, Reed teaches a special service call, and further wherein the means for determining and the means for overriding comprises a call-processing platform (see figs.).

Regarding claim 8, Reed teaches a method of fraud control for a call from an originating number to an international destination, comprising:

Reed teaches a device for preventing fraud in a call to an international destination in a long distance telecommunications system, said telecommunications system connected both internationally and domestically, comprising:

an international database for maintaining at least one record, each record associated with an international destination, each record having a label field;

means for determining if one or more stored labels match one or more labels in the label field of a record, when said record is accessed during call processing of the call, the international destination of the call being associated with the record; and means for blocking the call if the determining means determines that there is a match. This reads on receiving information associated with a call to determine whether the call being made is an international call and deciding whether a call should be blocked or continue (see columns 7-13).

Reed teaches an access-level database, containing records keyed to at least one access code used in obtaining the special service; an exchange-level database, containing records keyed to at least one telephone exchange; an Automatic Number

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Identifier (ANI)-level database, containing records keyed to at least one ANI; and means for determining if one or more labels are in a label field of a record in a database, said record having a key corresponding to the call to the international destination (see disclosure).

Reed teaches that based on an ANI (originating number, terminating number and so forth), a flag can be overridden or a call can be blocked. Furthermore, the exchange to which a call is being made to plays an important role in determining what treatment call should receive and the access level which reads on the authentication level plays a less significant role based on Reed's teaching.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **REXFORD N BARNIE** whose telephone number is (703)306-2744. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CURTIS KUNTZ can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PRIMARY EXAMINER  
REXFORD BARNIE  
09/14/04

*R. Barnie*  
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